

### **IN THE SPECIFICATION**

**Kindly replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 18 with the following:**

The syringe pair assembly 20 is pictured in Figures 13A, 13B. The assembly 20 includes two syringes (dispensing means) 22a, 22b; a barrel-holding frame 24; and a plunger connector 26. A fitting 18 is also present, the fitting 18 adapted to frictionally hold the syringe pair assembly 20 together and link to the dispensing manifold 8 via tubing 9. The barrel-holding frame 24 includes a spring-based plastic retaining member 28; in Figure 13B, the retaining member 28 secures the barrel-holding frame 24 to the fitting 18. The spring 27 is shown as a resilient leaf (Figure 13B) integral with frame 24 and leading to the retainer 28. The assembly 20 is housed inside a membrane 30, particularly during loading. The membrane 30 is preferably flexible plastic, formed with a gathered (doubled-over) portion 32 about the assembly 20. The gathered portion 32 is formed by creating pleats 36 using “accordion”-type folds in the membrane 30, with a first layer 30a (Figure 11) of the membrane 30 proximate the syringe pair assembly 20 (Figures 4, 12) and an outer layer 30b which moves from an overlying position (relative to the first layer 30a) to a coextensive position after loading a syringe pair assembly 20, one with clotting proteins and the other with thrombin. One end of the membrane 30 is sealed over the tubing 9 that connects to the dispensing line 16a, 16b via dispensing manifold 8. The other end of the membrane 30 is also closed and is deployed about the syringe plungers 38a, 38b, to allow an operator to grasp and extend the plunger end during filling of the syringe pair assembly 20 without exposure to ambient conditions. Downward force, shown by the arrow A in Figure 6, while

grasping the plunger end and the membrane 30 allows the pleats 36 of the gathered portion 32 to expand while always encasing the now-fully extended assembly 20 (Figures 5, 14). The plunger end of the membrane 30 will be opened (Figure 14) in an operatory to allow access to the filled syringe pair assembly 20 during a surgical procedure. As shown in Figure 14, a free end 37 of the membrane 30 shows the membrane as formed from the parts 37a, 37b, sealed together but separable (by peeling apart) to expose plunger connector 26 of the loaded syringe pair. Thus, the loaded syringe pair is maintained sterile until actual use in surgery.

**Kindly replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 19, with the following:**

To remove assembly 20 from membrane 30, spring 27 is depressed toward syringes 22a, 22b to ~~list~~ release retaining member 28 from mating catch on fitting 18. Syringes 22a, 22b are twisted and pulled away from fitting 18, allowing assembly 20 to reside loose within membrane 30. Membrane 30 is then peeled apart, as described earlier, to remove assembly 20.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT:	Sommer, Eric
FOR:	Biological Adhesive Loading Station and Method

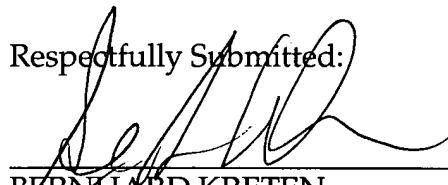
To: Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
Post Office Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**LETTER TO THE DRAFTSMAN**

Subject to the Examiner's approval, kindly enter the enclosed eight (8) sheets of formal drawing figures (comprised of figures 1 through 29) in place of the drawing figures as originally filed in the above-identified case.

Dated: December 15, 2003

Respectfully Submitted:

  
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